

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

703 KAR 5:140, Requirements for school and district report cards (Final)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.6453

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The school and district report cards contain valuable information about school quality and school improvement, and the school report card is delivered to every public school parent or guardian in Kentucky.

The regulation was first reviewed at the October 2005 Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) meeting and no changes have been made to the regulation language since that first review. KDE staff is proposing minor changes to the school report card regulation to update some of the reporting categories and make the report card more meaningful for parents of students.

The proposed regulation removes one of the five teacher qualification categories related to certification, removes a statistic on alternative placement that is no longer collected and revises a technology category.

These changes, along with some other design work, will allow for a larger and more readable typeface.

Policy Issue(s):

Here is a detailed listing of the proposed changes to the school report card regulation:

Page 2, lines 1-4 -- Removes the definition of certified teacher.

Rationale: This category will no longer be included in the Teacher Qualification category.

Page 4, line 9 -- Removes the percent of classes taught by a teacher certified for subject and grade level.

Rationale: Because of changes in teacher certification, this statistic is not as meaningful as it once was. Also, this removes a burden on schools to compile this information.

Page 5, line 5 -- Removes the number of students transferred to alternative placement.

Rationale: This statistic is no longer collected.

Page 5, lines 10-12 -- Revises the technology topic to reflect the "number of students per Internet connected computer."

Rationale: All schools were reporting the previous statistic on the percentage of classrooms with at least one Internet access at 100 percent. This new category will have more relevance to parents.

At the October meeting, there were discussions about reflecting how many students stay for the second year of college and the number of college freshmen requiring remediation, data from the High School Feedback Report. However, after discussions with the Council on Postsecondary Education, it was decided not to include this information because of problems with timeliness of the data.

Additionally, in October, the question was raised about the ability to reflect CATS scores by student subpopulation to focus attention on the achievement gap. Because of the redesign, space does exist on the report card for an additional chart that will show CATS scores by subpopulation. (A sample report card will be provided at the February meeting that contains this chart.). KDE will be piloting the use of this chart for the 2006-07 report card in order to provide time to work out technical issues. Thus, the chart is not included in the current regulation language changes.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends the Board give final approval to 703 KAR 5:140. The changes will make the report card more readable and useful to parents.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Improving the School Report Card will help build partnerships between parents and their schools.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

School report card coordinators at all districts were surveyed about the changes. Some 60 coordinators responded to a survey in August. They were overwhelmingly supportive of the proposals for the school report card. Comments indicated the coordinators believe the changes will make the report card more reader friendly, more meaningful for parents and easier for the districts to compile.

The changes for the school report card were also presented to the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) and the Commissioner's Parents Advisory Council. Both groups were supportive of the changes. Additionally, LSAC will review the regulation once more prior to the February meeting and submit its input via a letter from that body.

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